

Plot 1, 49 East Street
Stanwick, Northamptonshire
(SP 98410 71135)

Report on Archaeological
Observation,
Investigation & Recording

Planning Application Ref.
EN/12/01345/REM



July 2013

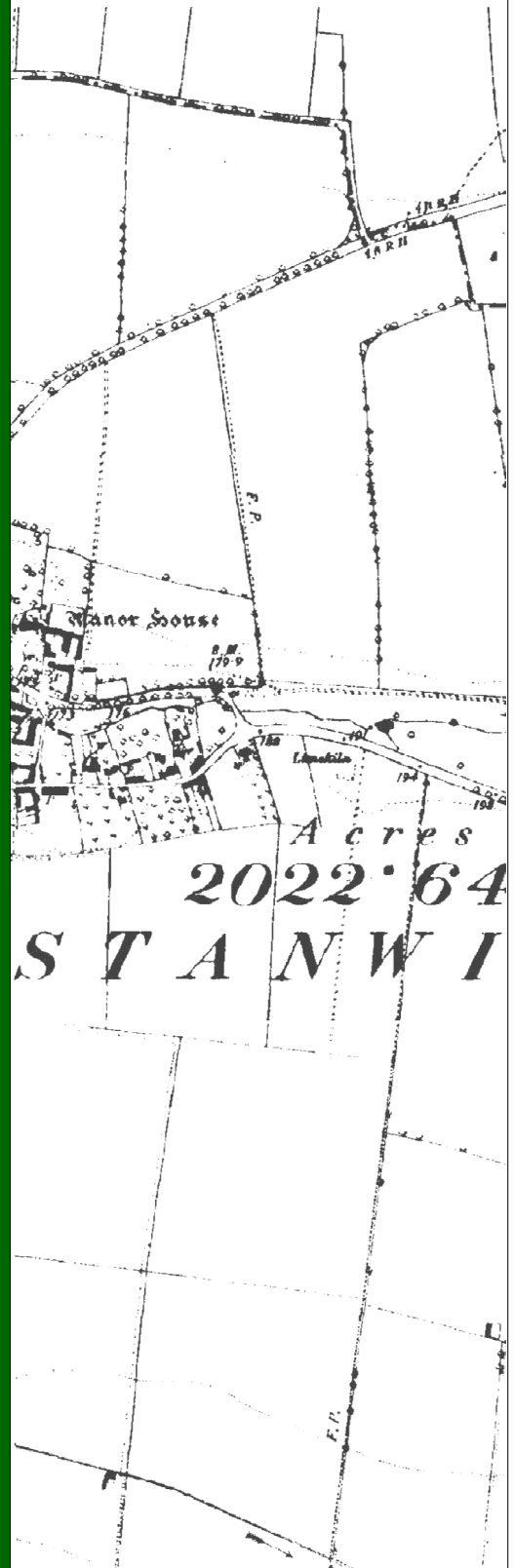
Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

Lilystone Homes Ltd

Souterrain

Archaeological Services Ltd



**Report on Archaeological Observation,
Investigation & Recording at
Plot 1 - 49 East Street, Stanwick,
Northamptonshire**

(NGR 498410 271135)

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July 2013

Souterrain Project: SOU13-294

Produced for:

Mr. Jason Ray
Lilystone Homes Ltd
1B Wetenall Road,
Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6TE

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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Fieldwork & Report:

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SUMMARY

Archaeological observation and investigation was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new building at a plot of land immediately to the southwest of No. 49 East Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report documents the results of archaeological observation and investigation carried out during ground preparation for a new building at Plot 1, 49 East Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire (NGR 498410 271135) (Fig. 1) on the 22nd and 23rd of May 2013, in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent. The work was commissioned by Mr. Jason Ray Lilystone Homes Ltd, 1B Wetenall Road, Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6TE.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation¹.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (EN/12/01345/REM, Reserved Matters) was granted subject to Conditions on 29th November 2012 to Mr. Colin Watkins of No.49 East Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire for the erection of two detached dwellings with associated improvements to existing access at the same address, pursuant to outline planning permission EN/09/01374/OUT (7th September 2009).
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the planning consent has been granted with a Condition (No.13) attached for an archaeological programme of works. The Condition requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation to be approved by the NCCAAA prior to the commencement of development work at the site. The reason for the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Scope of the development

- 2.3 The development entails the construction of a new dwelling in the existing rear garden of No. 49 East Street. The areas of the proposed developments are defined on drawings associated with the planning application: Blueprint Architectural Design. 'Proposed dwelling and Garage land to rear of 49 & 51 East St. Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6PX'. Drawing No. 12-055-07, Proposed Site Plan (Jan 2013); Drawing No. 12-055-03B, Proposed Site Plan (July 2012; Rev A Aug 2012, Rev B Oct. 2012).

3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 The proposed development area is located on the southeast periphery of Stanwick village. It is bordered to the north, west and east by residential dwellings and gardens, and to the south by a cultivated field. It is centred on national grid reference 498410, 271135. The topography of the site falls south to north between c.62.65m and 61.97m OD over a distance of 12m. The underlying geology is understood to be Great Oolitic Limestone with deposits of Cornbrash.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Prehistoric period

- 4.1 The landscape around the village of Stanwick is renowned for being rich in archaeology of the prehistoric periods. In the 1980s and 1990s the area southwest of Raunds was subject to extensive archaeological investigations as part of the Raunds Area Project², which included

¹ Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd. 2013. *Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at: Plots 1 and 2, 49 East Street Stanwick, Northamptonshire NGR SP 9841 7113 (centre). Application References: EN/12/01345/REM; EN/09/01374/OUT; 13/00133/FUL V.2 14th March 2013.*

² Harding, J and Healy, F. 2011. *Raunds Area Project: The Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes of West Cotton, Stanwick and Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire*, Oxbow books (English Heritage)

the environs of Stanwick. Along the Nene flood plain to the west of the village an extensive major Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monument complex existed along the eastern bank of the river for a distance of over 1.5km. In Stanwick Quarry, a 10m diameter ring ditch was found in proximity to a large unexcavated round barrow³. During the Middle Bronze Age, a pattern of droeways and rectilinear field boundaries developed on the valley bottom in the Raunds-Stanwick area, the area later becoming a focus for Iron Age and Roman settlement⁴.

- 4.2 Cropmarks discovered by aerial photography on the north-western periphery of the village include a complex of possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosures and ditches (SP975 715)⁵. One site, initially identified as a cropmark east of the A45⁶ (SP972 716), was excavated in 1992 proving to be a ring ditch of probable Early Bronze Age date. Similarly, a ring ditch is known to the southwest of the application site at SP980 709⁷ and possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosure are known to exist in fields to the south east at SP985 709⁸. Other prehistoric finds comprise a hoard of flint axes (6 or more) found in 1938⁹ during construction of a house on the west side of Newbridge Lane in Stanwick village itself (SP980 712), and two barbed and tanged arrowheads and a possible leaf shaped arrowhead were found south of the village at SP980 708¹⁰.

The Roman period

- 4.3 The most notable body of Roman evidence found in the vicinity of Stanwick was recovered from a villa complex which occupied a gravel terrace on the west side of the River Nene (SP972 716). The site, which lay about 1km northwest of the present application site, underwent an extensive programme of archaeological investigation prior to mineral extraction in 1984-88¹¹. In Stanwick village itself, however, only very slight evidence of occupation during the Roman period has been found to date; this consisting of very occasional pieces of residual pottery in pits and ditches of medieval date.

The Medieval Settlement

- 4.4 The village of Stanwick originated in the late Saxon period. It is understood to have had two distinct foci centred on the two main streets, each on an east-west axis. Much of the layout of the medieval settlement is believed to be fossilised in the surviving pattern of streets and lanes, with the course of the southernmost street running along Grange Road, the High Street and then as a green lane through Hall Farm (c.850m west-northwest of the application site).
- 4.5 In 1089, the manor of Stanwick formed part of the fee of Peterborough Abbey¹², the manor farm¹³ of which is understood to be the site of the present Manor Farm (SP 9820 7130), located about 290m northwest of the application site. Documentary evidence reveals that the manor farm was a comprehensive complex, probably ranged around a courtyard with gatehouse, components including a manor house with walled garden, chapel, a variety of

³ Chapman, A. 2004. Prehistoric palaeochannels and a ring ditch at Stanwick Quarry, Northamptonshire, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 32, 1-22

⁴ Chapman, A. 2007. 'The Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age' in Meadows, I., Boismier, W.A., & Chapman, A *Synthetic Survey of the Environmental Archaeological and Hydrological record for the River Nene from its source to Peterborough*, p.39

⁵ NMR NATINV-965147, 1979 and 1982

⁶ NMR ATINV-1252904

⁷ NMR NATINV-347410

⁸ NMR NATINV-347411

⁹ NMR NATINV-347339

¹⁰ NMR NATINV-347363

¹¹ Neal, D.S. 1989. The Stanwick Roman Villa, Northants: An interim report of the Excavations of 1984-88. *Britannia* v.20, 149-168

¹² 'Parishes: Stanwick', *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4* (1937), pp. 51-54. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66313> Date accessed: 15th February 2013.

¹³ SMR No. 1347/4/1

livestock and agricultural buildings and a smithy¹⁴.

- 4.6 Over the last two decades there have been several development-initiated archaeological investigations in the village of Stanwick, most of these clustered in the old village core in the vicinity of Manor Farm and Grange Farm. The first investigation was an archaeological recording action in 1992, south of Manor Farm on the north side of East Street and the east side of Newbridge Street. A number of archaeological features dated to the late Saxon period were identified which comprised a possible structure of undetermined form or function represented by a series of post holes¹⁵, two possible boundary ditches¹⁶, and the remains of a dwelling with multiple hearths¹⁷. Other features found were believed to date to the medieval period – the foundations of three walls¹⁸ and a large pit¹⁹, the latter which contained residual Roman and late Saxon pottery.
- 4.7 In October 1996 an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at The Hollow, just north of The Grange on the west side of Newbridge Lane, about 280m west-northwest of the present application site. A large pit or ditch was found, at least 1.3m deep that contained pottery dating to the 12th to 15th centuries²⁰. Four trial trenches followed in 1997 at Grange Farm²¹ on the south side of Grange Road, within the former farmyard²², but finds were scant due to modern truncation. On the east side of the same site were a couple of possible medieval post holes and two gullies, one of the latter interpreted as a possible 12th century property boundary to the rear of dwellings that fronted the south side of Grange Road. A single residual sherd of Roman pottery was found.
- 4.8 In 2000, an archaeological evaluation of three trial trenches was undertaken in the paddock of Hall Farm²³ (c.850m west of the present application site) prior to proposed housing development. There was a complete absence of archaeological remains and artefacts, which suggested to the excavator that the site had never been occupied and had always lain outside of the village of Stanwick²⁴. Two further trial trenches were dug on the west side of the village in 2000, at a small development plot adjacent to No. 51 West Street²⁵ (c.970m west of the present application site), but again revealed no archaeological features, whilst an archaeological watching brief at a development plot off Villa Lane in 2003 revealed a possible 19th century quarry pit²⁶. The most recent archaeological investigation took place in the former front garden of No.49 East Street (c.60m north of the application site) in 2012²⁷. There was nothing found of archaeological interest, the site having been heavily disturbed by the construction of large greenhouses in the 20th century.

¹⁴ SMR Nos. 1347/4/1 to 1347/4/13; SP 9820 7130

¹⁵ SMR No.1347/0/21; ENN11828, East Street, 1992; SP 9818 7121

¹⁶ SMR Nos.1347/0/20; SP 9821 7118 and 1347/0/42, SP 9821 7118

¹⁷ SMR No.1347/0/11, SP 982 711

¹⁸ SMR No.1347/0/41; SP 9821 7121

¹⁹ SMR No.1347/0/46, SP 9821 7118

²⁰ SMR No.1347/0/30, SP 9816 7121

²¹ SMR No.1347/0/47, SP 9820 7112; Saunders, M.J. 1999 An Archaeological Excavation at Grange Farm, Stanwick, Northants, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 28, 1998-99

²² SP9816 7113

²³ SP97607110

²⁴ Ivens, R J., 2000. *Archaeological Evaluation of The Paddock, Hall Farm, Stanwick, Northamptonshire*

²⁵ SP97487142; Parry, S & Jones, C. 2000. Land Adjacent to 51 West Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Evaluation, Northampton: *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 2000

²⁶ SP97737127; Ivens, R. 2003. Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Off Villa Lane, Stanwick, Northamptonshire

²⁷ Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd 2012. Report on Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording at Plot 3 - 49 East Street Stanwick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 984711), (App. Ref. EN/12/00488/FUL), Sept 2012, Souterrain Project No.: SOU12-250

Undated Features and Post-medieval finds

- 4.9 In 1998, three trial trenches were excavated on land between 155m and 195m to the northeast of the present application site²⁸. Besides 19th century and modern features, such as land drains and pits²⁹ and post-holes³⁰, there were a number of undated features: a possible limestone surface³¹; a broad hollow road-like feature³², a large shallow hollow (1.2m deep x 4.7m wide) with a gully³³ and a shallow ditch³⁴. Other discoveries comprise a series of late medieval to post-medieval quarry pits which were discovered in 1992 on land off East Street and Newbridge Lane during an archaeological recording action³⁵.

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 In view of the deemed archaeological potential of the site given the range of discoveries in and around Stanwick village, the Written Scheme of investigation advocated a series of research objectives with particular emphasis on regional research themes³⁶. In brief, the key objectives of the investigation were as follows:

- to attempt to recover evidence that may contribute to understanding of the origin and extent of late Saxon nucleated settlement of Stanwick;
- to ascertain whether there is evidence of late Saxon occupation that would indicate the eastern extent of the nucleated settlement;
- to attempt to determine the function of this part of the landscape in the medieval periods
- to identify the form and development of medieval peasant buildings;
- to identify and sample archaeological deposits which have the potential to yield environmental data that may contribute towards the origin of the Midland open field system and the effect that open field farming had in terms of environmental impact, changes in land-use;
- to identify deposits which have the potential for the recovery of environmental data that may contribute to medieval settlement and the agrarian economy;
- to recover artefacts which may contribute to understanding of interaction between towns/market areas and countryside
- to attempt to recover evidence that may shed light on the function and nature of the part of the landscape in other periods

²⁸ SP9842 7128; Parry S & Webster M. 1998. An Archaeological Evaluation: Land at The Avenue, Stanwick, Northamptonshire. *Northamptonshire Archaeology*

²⁹ SMR No.1347/0/32; Event No.ENN19185

³⁰ SMR No.1347/0/36

³¹ SMR No.1347/0/33

³² SMR No.1347/0/34

³³ SMR No.1347/0/37

³⁴ SMR No.1347/0/35

³⁵ SMR 1347/0/22, SP 9820 7120; Sharman, T. 1992. Stanwick, Land off East Street/ Newbridge Lane: Archaeological Recording Action Report.

³⁶ c.f: Cooper, N (ed.), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 191 and Knight, D, Vyner, B. & Allen, C. 2012. *Research Agenda And Strategy For The Historic Environment Of The East Midlands*, East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Nottingham/York).

6. FIELD PROCEDURE & OBSERVATIONS

- 6.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2001).
- 6.2 Trenching was monitored by an archaeologist throughout, with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate.
- 6.3 The excavation of strip foundation trenches revealed a uniform stratigraphic sequence across the development footprint. This comprises dark brown clayey topsoil overlying a mid-brown layer of subsoil, which in turn overlay an undisturbed geological stratum of calcareous clay with limestone fragments. Topsoil thickness varied generally between c.0.3m to 0.4m on the - east side of the site to up to c.0.55m on the west side. Subsoil was generally between 0.3m on the east side and 0.2m on the west side.
- 6.4 Although the investigation proved to be 'negative' in terms of archaeological remains being present, a photographic and descriptive record was made and the site was surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates (Fig. 3) and height datum. The height of the top of the natural geology was also recorded across the site (Fig. 3, '(g)' denotes top of natural geology). This showed a fall in height of around 0.5m south to north over a distance of c.11m and about 0.25m east to west over a distance of c.15m.
- 6.5 Apart from the roots of recent trees there were no indications of past cultivation or other land-use or disturbance.
- 6.6 All sections were checked for residual artefacts. Similarly, topsoil was scanned. No artefacts were present.

7. REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The investigation was unable to contribute any of the defined archaeological research objectives (*ante* 5). It is not possible to infer the cultural status or function of this part of the landscape in antiquity.

8. ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The archaeological site archive is to be prepared and deposited in accordance with the policy set out in "Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums".
- 8.2 The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations: www.oasis.ac.uk) identification number for this project is souterra1-155209.

9. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

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- 9.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

Figure 1. Location of Site

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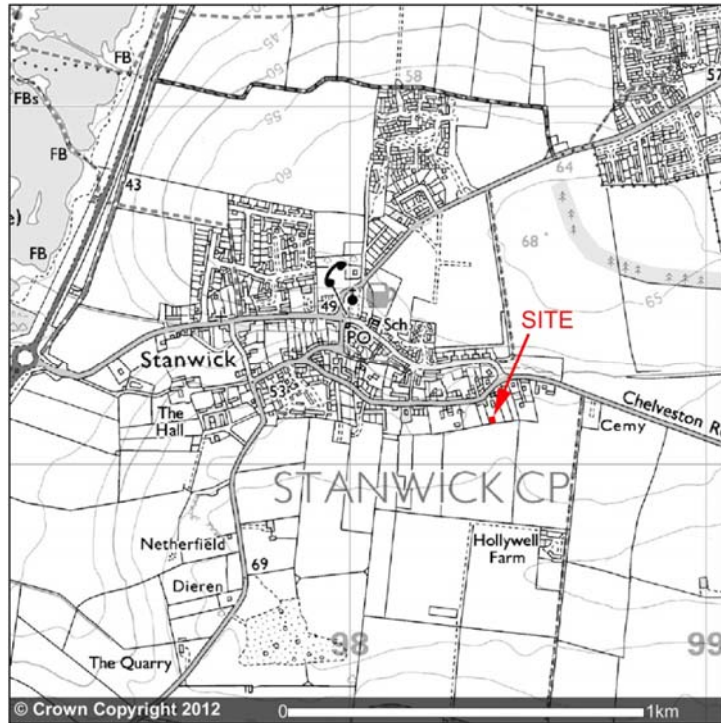




Figure 2. Overview of the development area, pre-excavation (marked out in foreground), facing NNW

Figure 3.
Plan of the development area
showing levels and direction of
photographs at Figs. 4 & 5

‘(g)’ denotes top of natural geology

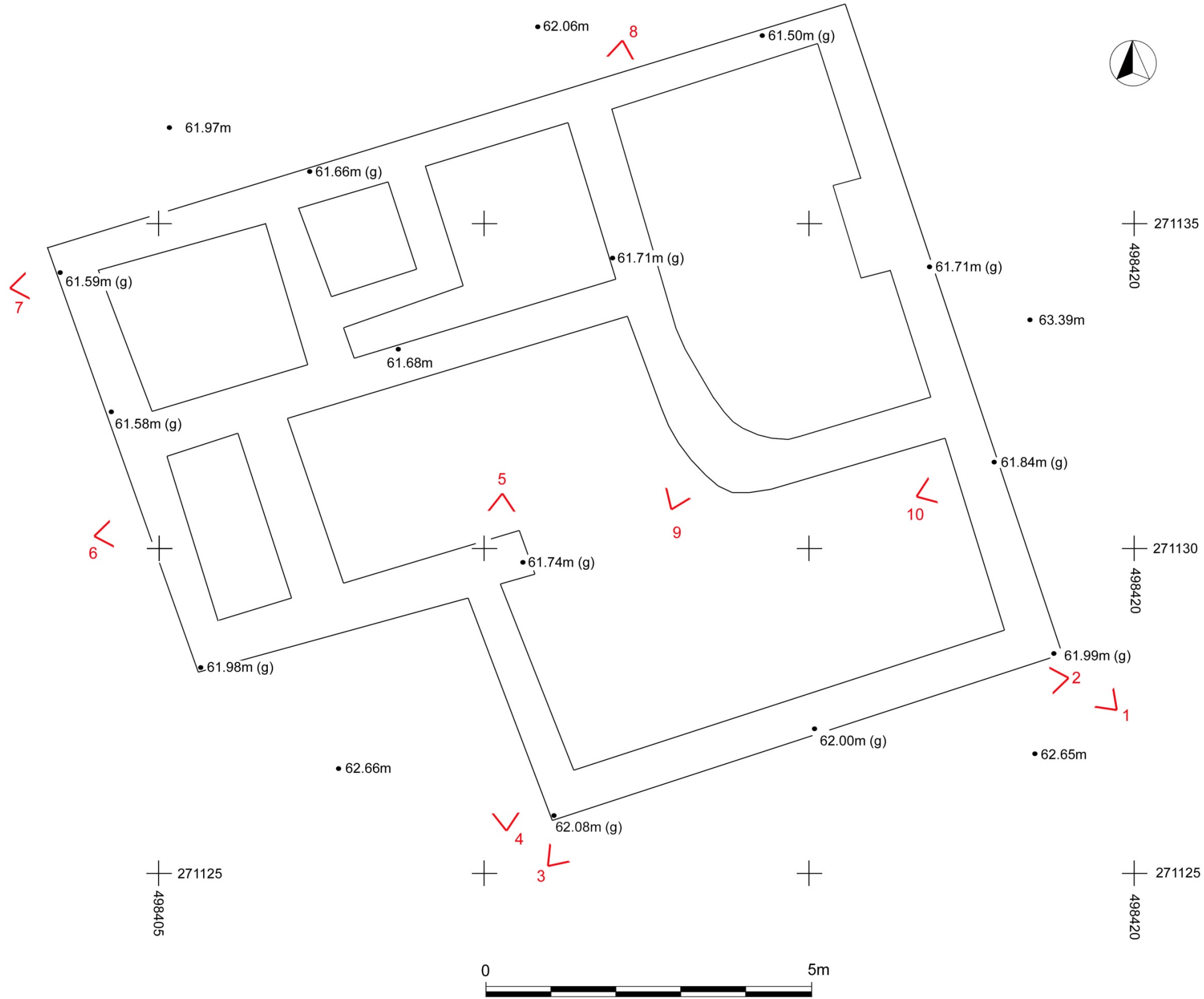




Figure 4. Views of the development area (see Fig. 3)



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Figure 5. Views of the development area (see Fig. 3)